

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) A method of assaying for ~~determining the~~ potential allergenicity, irritancy or inflammatory characteristics of a pre-selected substance or chemical comprising:

(a) exposing a mast cell-line and/or basophil cell-line to said substance or chemical in the absence of a sensitizing agent IgE specific for said substance or chemical;

(b) detecting release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediators in response to said exposing; and

(c) designating the pre-selected substance or chemical as potentially allergenic based on detecting release of said at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediators.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is a secretor variant of RBL-2H3.

49. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is pre-incubated with a marker.